| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 26. | Kumari Saroj Khaparde | -Do- |
| 27. | Shri Virendra Kataria | -Do- |
| 28. | Shri Mo Khan Azmi | -Do- |
| 29. | Shri Bratin Sengupta | -Do- |
| 30. | Shri Satya Dev Singh | -Do- |
| 31. | Smt. Saroj Rani | -Do- |
| 32. | Shri E. Ahamed | -Do- |
| 33. | Smt. Zuhara Ahamed | -Do- |
| 34. | Shri Govindram Miri | -Do- |
| 35. | Smt. Parvati Miri | -Do- |
| 36. | Dr. A.K. Patel | -Do- |
| 37. | Dr. K.P. Ramalingan | -Do- |
| 38. | Dr. P.R.S. Venkatesan | -Do- |
| 39. | Shri Raghavji | -Do- |
| 40. | Shri R.C. Tripathi, Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs. | |
| 41. | Shri Dhani Ram, Under Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs. | |

**Projects In North-East Railway**

6431. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to experts the projects proposed in Railway Budget during 1996-97 for North-East have been suffering from various drawbacks;

(b) if so, the details of drawbacks;

(c) whether the failure to inculde the section from New Jalpaiguri to New Bogaigaon on Northeast Frontier Railway for double track is one of the major drawbacks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the position so that such omission may not lead to serious traffic conjestion in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Gauge conversion work from New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Bongalgaon has been included in the budget 1997-98 and will provide an alternative BG route between New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon, serving the purpose of doubling.

**Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited**

6432. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where Corporation proposes to undertake exploration work;

(c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the Corporation to undertake the exploration work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Plan for exploration drawn by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) includes drilling 18,00,000 metres, mining 10,000 metres, detailed geological mapping 1200 sq. km., sampling and analysis of 3,00,000 samples. MECL has planned for undertaking exploration in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved a 9th Plan provision of Rs. 35 crores for promotional and Rs. 25 crores for capital expenditure (provisional).

**Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway Service**

6433. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silghat-Chaparmukh railway service has been closed since 1993 causing great inconvenience to travelling public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are likely to consider to re-open the said railway line with immediate effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway line is existing. The Chaparmukh-Senchoa section has been converted into broad gauge, but Senchoa-Silghat section has not been in operation since 1993.

(c) and (e) Yes, Sir, by the rehabilitation of the track to make it fit for MG rail bus operation in due course.

**Extension of Railway Level Crossings**

6434. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway level crossings at Dairy Farm, Rayalacherum Gate and D.R. Mahal in Tirupati town are likely to be extended;

(b) if so, the width of the proposed extension; and

(c) the time by which the above crossings are likely to be extended?